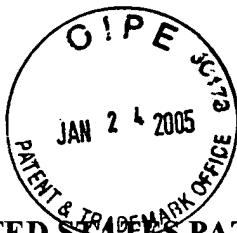


IFW
JL

Docket No. 926512-95494



CUSTOMER NO. 23644

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE THE APPLICATION OF)
Berton L. Vicars)
)
SERIAL NO: 10/764,971)
)
FILED: January 26, 2004)
)
FOR: Discharge Valve)

Box: FEE AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

- [x] AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES. If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the following Communication (including but not limited to the payment of Issue Fees), they may be paid out of our deposit account 12-0913. If this payment also requires a Petition, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary Petition which is required to accompany this payment.
- [x] Applicant hereby petitions for a ~~one~~ month extension for the late filing of this Amendment, which is sent within the ~~one~~ month after the due date of December 17, 2004. The payment of \$120.00 to cover the ~~one~~ month extension should be taken from our Deposit Account No. 12-0913. *Two* *2nd*

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box: FEE AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

Date: *20*

January 20, 2005

James Conte

BARNES & THORNBURG
P.O. BOX 2786
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690-2786
(312) 357-1313

This Office Action can be separated into the following sections:

- I. Introduction, page 3
- II. Claim Listing, page 4
- III Specification Amendments, page 5
- IV. Remarks, page 6
- V. Conclusion, page 8

I Introduction

The present communication responds to the Office Action dated Sept. 17, 2004. The first month after the due date, January 17, 2005 falling on Martin Luhter King Day, means the present communication filed January ~~18th~~²⁰, 2005, is within the time for filing with a ~~one~~^{Two} month extension. The Office is authored to debit Attorney for Applicant's deposit account 12-0913 to pay for the extension.

Prior to the present amendment claim 1 was pending. The present amendment cancels claim 1 and adds new claims 2 and 3. The amendments to the claims begin on page 4 .

Amendments made to the specification begin at page 5.

No amendments are made to the drawings.